

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WAASHDC PRIORITY 2907

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 13956

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINR CH

SUBJECTA: PINT PINR CH

SUBJECT: THIRD SESSION OF FOURTH NPC OPENS

REF: HONG KONG 13712

INTROUDCTION: PEKING'S SUDDEN CONVOCATION OF THE THIRD
SESSION OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC)
STANDING COMMITTEE APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT THE HUA REGIME
IS ANXIOUS TO SHOW FORWARD MOVEMENT IN SETTLING ISSUES-PAR-
TICULARLY PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS. LENDING CREDENCE TO THIS
ASSUMPTION, CONVOCATION OF THE MEETING CAME WITH NO ADVANCE
NOTICE AND CONTRARY TO RECENT PRATICE WAS ANNOUNCED AS
BEING " INSESSIONS" RATHER THAN ALREADY CONCLUDED, THUS GIVING
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THE REGIME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW ITS ACTIVE POSTRUE OVER

TIME. PEKING'S ACTIONS HELP AFFIRM REGIME LEGITIMACY BUT THE LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO CONCENTRATE ON "EASY" ISSUES (REFTEL) AND THE TOUGH DECISIONS ON THE PARTY LINE-UP AND RESOLVING POLICY QUESTIONS STILL APPEAR SOME MONTHS OFF.END INTRODUCTION.

1. THE ABSENCE OF PROVINCE-BASED STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR-MAN WE KUO-CHING AND SAIFUDIN SUGGESTS A RAHTER HASTILY CONVENED SESSION. IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO ONLY THE AILING LIU PO-CHENG AND LI CU-CHUN'S WIDOW TSAI CHAGN ARE MISSING FROM THE NPC VICE CHAIRMAN AND VICE PERMIER LISTINGS. THE APPEARANCE OF PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING WHO HAS NO POSTS IN THESE BODIES IS IN KEEPING WITH HIS RECENT PROMINENCE (HK 13785) PEKING 2447) AND COULD BE RELATED TO THE EARLIER SHANGHAI POSTERS ACCLAIMING HIS APPOINTMENT AS NPC CHAIRMAN (PEKING 2292).

2. THE AVENDA OF THE SESSION WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED AND INCLUDED A SPEECH AGAINST THE "GANG OF FOUR" A REPORT ON THE NPC DELEGATIONS'S VISIT TO IRAN AND KUWAIT, THE APPROVAL OF PREMIER CHOU'S WIDOW, TENG YING-CHAO, AS AN NPC STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN, AND FINALLY, "APPOINTMENTS AND REMOVALS." THE AGENDA IS SOMEWHAT USUSUAL IN THAT IT FAILS TO MENTION ANY DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANS, A SUBJECT NORMALLY DISCUSSED BY THE NPC AND ONE OF WHICH NPC APPROVAL IS TECHNICALLY REQUIRED. EVEN THE SECOND SESSION IN MARCH 1975, WHICH WAS OSTENSIBLY DESIGNED TO HANDLE THE RELEASE OF FORMER WAR CRIMINALS, LISTED TO REPORTS ON THE 1975 NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN. IT THEREFORE APPEARS THAT THE HUA REGIME CONVENYED THIS SESSION WITH CONCERN FOR DEMONSTRATING SPECIFIC LEADERSHIP ACTION FOLLOWING THE DOWNFALL OF THE -GANG OF FOUR" BUT THAT IT IS NOT YET PREPARED TO ADDRESS BROADER POLICY QUESTIONS.

3. NPC VICE CHAIRMAN WU TEH'S SPEECH OFFERED THE USUAL HOMILIES ABOUT THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND THEIR CRIMES ADDING NO NEW CHARGES OR POLICY LINES. HIS MENTION OF THE NEED TO "CONTINUE CRITICISM OF TENG HISAO-PING", HOWEVER, STRIKING" PARTICULARLY SINCE THE THRUST OF MOST PRC OFFICIAL COMMENT ND PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE ALLOWED THAT TENG CRITICISM WAS PHASING OUT AND THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY BACK (HK 13815). IN ADDITION WU OPTED FOR THE "SOFT "LINE ON TREATMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" FOLLOWING THE LINE OF THE RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL (HK CONFIDENTIAL

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13843), AND CONTRASING WITH MANY PROVINCIAL MESSAGES AND A LIBERATION ARMY DAILY COMMENTARY WHICH CALL FOR CLEARING OUT THESE SUPPORTERS.

4. HUA KUO-FENG'S BRIEF STATEMENT THAT CHAIRMAN MAO BEFORE HIS DEATH HAD APPROVED TENG YING-CHAO'S ELEVATION TO NOC STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN WAS GREETED BY ROUNDS OF APPLAUSE, LEAVING LITTLE DOUBT THAT THIS WISH WILL BE APPROVED. COMING ON

THE HEELS OF CHINAG CHING'S POLITICAL DEMISE, IT IS A SINGULAR MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE LATE PREMIER CHOU AND FUTHER EVIDENCE OF HIS GROWING IMAGE. HER ELEVATION BY OTHER THAN THE FULL NPC, HOWEVER, IS A DEPARTURE FROM CONSITITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND THUS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SESSION WILL CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN OR ACTING CHAIRMAN TO FILL IN OFR THE LATE CHU TEH.

5. MOST IMPORTANT FOR REGIME PLANS ON THIS OCCASION, HOWEVER IS THE LAST AGENDA ITEM WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE APPOINTMENT OF STATE COUNCIL LEADERS. THIS WILL OBVIOUSLY MEAN DROPPING CHANG CHUN-CHIAO FROM THE VICE PRMERI RANKS AND COULD INCLUDE NAMING A NEW PREMIER TO SUCCEED HUA AND ADDITIONAL VICE PREMIERS. IT WILL CERTAINLY INCLUDE FILLING IN THE NUMEROUS VACANCIES IN THE MINISTERIAL LINEUP. INCLUDING KNOWN DEATHS TRANSFERS AND PRESUMED PURGES FOR ASSOCIATION WITH THE "GANG OF OFUR" THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VACANICES IN THE MINISTRIES AND THE STATUS OF THE INCUMBENTS IN THE MINISTRIES OF NATIONAL DEFESNSE, PUBLIC SECURITY, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND RAILROADS ALSO NEED TO BE CLARIFIED.

WE ALSO ASSUME THAT THE FATE OF CHIAO KUAN-HUA WILL BE CONFIRMED AS A RESULT OF THIS SESSION. CROSS

SECURITY, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND RAILROADS ALSO NEEDS TO BE CLAIRIFIED.

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